

REMARKS

The Office Action states that claims 1-33 (group I) are drawn to a memory controller for controlling data write requests from plural requestors, classified in class 711, subclass 154 and claims 34-37 (group II) are drawn to a method of incrementing an address for memory operations, classified in class 711, subclass 219. The Office Action requires election of group I or group II for examination. The requirement for election is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that the inventions of groups I and II are related as combination and subcombination. The Office Action also states that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed since the independent claims in group I do not recite any of the features of group II. The Office Action further states that the subcombination has separate utility, such as addressing interleaved memory (Office Action – page 2).

The applicants note that claim 34 recites a method for writing data that includes incrementing an address a first amount for one or more write operations during absence of a condition and incrementing the address a second amount for one or more write operations during existence of the condition. The applicants note that a number of claims in group I, such as claims 5 and 6, claims 13 and 14, claim 24 and claims 26-28, recite features associated with incrementing the value in an address register associated with writing data that are similar in scope to claims 34-37. Therefore, the applicants believe that claims 34-37 should be examined with claims 1-33 (group I).

In addition, in order for a restriction to be proper, the inventions must be independent and there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not made (MPEP § 803). The

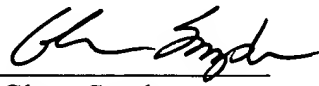
applicants respectfully submit that a search and examination of all the pending claims can be made without serious burden. As discussed above, claims 34-37 include features that are similar to those recited in a number of claims in group I. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the claims of groups I and II can be examined together without serious burden. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and examination of pending claims 1-37 is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner, after considering the discussion above, still believes that election is required, the applicants provisionally elect group I (claims 1-33) with traverse.

CONCLUSION

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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